

History

Fundamentals 4

World History
from 500 CE
to Modern Times

Boost confidence & test scores!

What Is History?

History is the study of the past. Studying the **later history** of the **world** teaches you about how **human knowledge** and **experience** shifted from a regional to a **global perspective**. By analyzing events and forces of the past 2,000 years in a larger context, you gain a **deeper understanding** of your own **society** and its place in the **modern world**.

[ABOUT THIS GUIDE: (1) All dates are Common Era (CE); (2) terms used follow National Standards for the subject.]

Expanding Zones of Encounter (500-1000)

- The **Middle Ages** begin in Western Europe, and the **Byzantine Empire** becomes the center of **Christian civilization**.
- **Islam** is founded and spreads across its enormous empire and along trade routes.
- **Chinese civilization** influences Korea, Japan, and other parts of Asia.

	Prophet of Islam, Muhammad, is born 570	Feudalism develops in Western Europe 900
	618 Tang dynasty begins in China	
500	Germanic tribes have conquered Western Roman Empire, starting the Middle Ages in Western Europe	
	Eastern Roman Empire becomes known as the Byzantine Empire ; scholars (especially in Constantinople) preserve Greek philosophy and literature, Roman political/legal ideas, and Christian theology	
527-565	Justinian becomes emperor of Byzantine Empire; compiles <i>Justinian Code</i> of laws (basis for most European legal systems); wins series of wars against Germanic tribes; spreads Christianity	
570	The prophet of Islam, Muhammad , is born in Mecca on the Arabian Peninsula; begins preaching new monotheistic religion, Islam	
	600 Viking warriors and settlers begin leaving overcrowded homeland (present-day Norway, Denmark, and Sweden) in search of land and riches; settle throughout Europe and help found Russia	
618	After more than 300 years of instability and invasions, Tang dynasty unifies China and brings great prosperity; cultural exchanges through trade (especially along Silk Road) greatly influence life in Japan and Korea with spread of Confucianism, Buddhism, and the Chinese writing system	
622	Muhammad and followers move to Medina; build a strong army recruited from all Arab states and begin <i> jihad </i> to spread Islam to new lands; marks beginning of Islamic era	
730	Islamic Empire reaches territorial peak with trade routes connecting and uniting empire; religious toleration of Jews and Christians established (with special tax); arts and sciences flourish	
732	Franks of present-day France and Germany defeat Muslim warriors at Battle of Tours, halting spread of Islam into Western Europe	
735	Muslim camel caravans begin using Trans-Saharan Trade Routes between Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa; Islam spreads along routes; in control of much of the gold and salt trade along routes, Ghana becomes West Africa's first large-scale empire	
750	In present-day Mexico, Mayan civilization reaches its peak with several city-states and kingdoms linked by common culture and trade; Mayan city of Tikal becomes largest in Mesoamerica	
771	Charlemagne becomes king of Franks; conquers and unites much of Western Europe under Frankish Kingdom; spreads Christianity; pope names him "Holy Roman Emperor"	
843	After Charlemagne's death, kingdom breaks apart into what will become France, Germany, and Holy Roman Empire; governing power disintegrates under pressures of civil wars and constant invasions from Vikings, Muslims, and Magyars	
	900 With weak central governments, feudalism develops in Western Europe	
	907 In China, Tang dynasty collapses under pressure of rebellions and border wars; military dynasties take control	
1000	Attacks from Muslims of North Africa diminish Ghana's power; kingdom eventually breaks up into many smaller Muslim states	
	Mayan civilization disappears for still unknown reasons	
	Estimated world population is about 300 million	

Intensified Hemispheric Interactions (1000-1450)

- **Crusades** help draw Western Europe out of the Middle Ages.
- **Mongols** conquer most of **Eurasia**, with stabilizing rule allowing immense **commercial** and **cultural exchange** between East and West.
- In the Western Hemisphere, **Aztec** and **Inca** agricultural **civilizations** are expanding and creating **empires** in the Americas.

	Pope sends first Crusade to Palestine 1096	Marco Polo visits China 1271
	1206 Genghis Khan begins building Mongol Empire	1440 Invention of printing press spreads Renaissance
1070	Seljuk Turks (Muslim people from Central Asia) conquer much of Middle East; gain control of main trade routes between Asia and Europe; close Jerusalem to Jewish and Christian pilgrims	
1096	From Rome, the pope sends first Crusade (armies of Christian nobles, knights, and volunteers from Western Europe) to "free the Holy Land" from Muslim control	
1192	Feudal period begins in Japan : divided into warring states with shogun and emperor mere figureheads; powerful samurai (landowner-warriors) rule and constantly fight for power	
1206	On Central Asian steppes, Genghis Khan unites nomadic Mongol clans and organizes army; over next century, he and his successors create the largest land empire in history; establishes peace in empire allowing for increased trade and cultural exchanges	
1271-88	Venetian explorer Marco Polo travels Silk Road to China (ruled by Mongol Kublai Khan); descriptions of Chinese civilization greatly increase European desire for exploration and trade	
1291	Major Crusades end: Muslims keep control of Palestine; Western Europeans have gained knowledge from Byzantines and Muslims; organizing Crusades has increased power of monarchs	
1300	Unity of Mongol Empire has disintegrated: Mongol territories in Russia, Central Asia, Persia, and China form independent domains; gunpowder from China is introduced into Muslim lands	
	In Africa, Mali and Bantu kingdoms have grown rich mining gold and copper and trading with India and Arab lands; Islam spreads rapidly; capital of Mali, Timbuktu , becomes center of Muslim culture	
1325	In the Americas, the Aztecs found city of Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City), which becomes capital of the growing Aztec Empire	
1337	Hundred Years' War begins between England and France over control of French lands and succession to French throne	
1348-50	Bubonic plague epidemic ("Black Death") ravages Europe, killing an estimated 40% of the population	
1368	In China, a military officer from peasant family leads rebellion and overthrows Mongol rule, founding Ming dynasty	
1438	South American agricultural civilization expands across Andes Mountains from capital at Cuzco, forming united Inca Empire	
1440	Printing press is invented; fosters rapid development in the sciences, arts, and religion through transmission of texts	
1450	The Renaissance , a period of profound cultural and philosophical awakening, has started in Italy and is spreading throughout Western Europe	
	Estimated world population is about 400 million	

	Middle Ages (c. 500-1300)	Renaissance (c. 1300-1700)
Government	Local; based on power of landowners and the Church	Power of monarchies increases; representative government emerging
Religion & Education	Church plays major role in daily life ; provides schools, hospitals, etc.	Humanism : emphasis on human values rather than religious beliefs
Social Classes	Feudalism : monarchs give nobles estates with peasants (serfs) in exchange for military support (knights)	Middle class emerges in growing towns (merchants, bankers, and artisans)
Economy	Mainly agricultural/local ; bartering used more than money	Money economy grows with increased trade and need for banking systems
Arts	Mostly religious content ; no perspective; detailed styles; most literature in Latin (hand copied)	More secular themes; use of perspective; classical (Greek/Roman) styles; vernacular (non-Latin) in literature (printing press)

The First Global Age (1450-1750)

- The **Great Age of Exploration** leads to **increased knowledge** of the world and **European expansion** overseas.
- The “**gunpowder empires**” (Ming, Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid states) dominate the greater part of **Eurasia** and **North Africa**.
- **Protestant** and **Catholic Reformations** bring great changes.

Christopher Columbus reaches the Americas		Ottoman Empire controls most of Eurasia	
1492	1517	1522-66	1618-48
	Protestant Reformation begins in Europe		Most of Europe fights Thirty Years’ War
1453	Hundred Years’ War ends with French victory; hastens end of feudalism and rise of monarchies in Western Europe		
	Muslim Ottoman Turks of Central Asia use knowledge of gunpowder to conquer Constantinople (ending Byzantine Empire); bar Europeans from using overland trade routes to Asia		
	With land routes blocked, Europeans begin searching for water routes to Asia; Great Age of Exploration begins		
1492	Christopher Columbus sails across Atlantic, lands on Caribbean island; claims region for Spain and builds first colony in Americas (home to an estimated 40 to 90 million Native Americans)		
1500	In China, Ming dynasty has brought long period of peace and stability; Confucianism returns as empire’s official doctrine; capital moved to Beijing; Great Wall of China is rebuilt		
	Commercial Revolution develops in Europe, with increased commerce and growth of mercantilism, banking, and investing		
1510	Spanish enslave Native Americans and begin importing African slaves to the Americas to work colonial farms and mines		
1517	Martin Luther , a German monk, begins Protestant Reformation , posting his 95 Theses criticizing Roman Catholic Church policies and power of pope; over time, several Protestant sects form, replacing elaborate Catholic services and hierarchy with austere prayer and local preaching		
1519-22	Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition for Spain becomes first to sail around the world		
1519-33	Using horses and more advanced weapons, Spanish conquer Aztec and Inca Empires in present-day Mexico and Peru; wealth gained in gold heightens European interest in Americas		
1522-66	Ottoman Empire reaches peak of power: controls most of Eurasia; capital at Constantinople renamed Istanbul ; Islam established as official religion, but other faiths tolerated (taxed)		
1540s	Catholic Counter-Reformation tries to counter spread of Protestantism; Inquisition charged to find and judge heretics; Jesuit missionaries are sent to Asia, Africa, and Americas to gain converts		
1556	Descendants of Mongols have used gunpowder to conquer northern India, founding Mughul dynasty ; under rule of Akbar the Great , arts and learning flourish and trade with China increases		
1558	Elizabeth I becomes queen of England; makes (Protestant) Church of England state religion; increases England’s wealth and power with navy and merchant fleets; encourages arts and literature		
1587	Shah Abbas takes throne of Safavid dynasty in Persia; spreads Persian culture in Muslim world; alliance gives England control of Persian silk and East Indian spice trade		
1588	English defeat Spanish Armada , beginning decline of Spain as world power and increasing England’s power and colonial efforts		
1601	In Japan, General Tokugawa unifies warring feudal states and becomes shogun ; makes Edo (present-day Tokyo) center of government; establishes rigid social classes; begins isolationist policies that culminate in Act of Seclusion of 1636		
1618	Thirty Years’ War begins as religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Holy Roman Empire (HRE); eventually involves most of Europe as continuation of rivalry between Bourbon dynasty of France and Habsburg dynasty of HRE and Spain		
1625	British, French, and Dutch have joined Spain and Portugal by starting colonies in the Americas ; an estimated 80% of all Native Americans have died, mainly from diseases such as smallpox		
1640s	American colonists initiate triangular trade route : European manufactured goods (guns, knives, cloth, rum) used to buy slaves in West Africa; slaves sold in colonies; profits used to buy colonial products (sugar, molasses, cotton, tobacco) to sell in Europe		
1644	Invaders from Manchuria conquer China, establish Qing dynasty ; slowly double size of empire; maintain control by placing Manchus in all leadership positions and adopting Chinese culture		
1648	Thirty Years’ War ends with Holy Roman Empire dissolving and France emerging as Europe’s leading power		
1688-89	“ Glorious Revolution ” takes place in England, with Protestant rulers returned to crown and greater powers given to Parliament		
1689	Czar Peter I (“ Peter the Great ”) initiates reforms to “westernize” Russia, but nation remains mostly feudal		
1700	Europeans have started colonies in Southeast Asia to control sea-trade link between India and China		
1724	Qing leaders distrust Europeans, force all missionaries to leave		
1750	In Asia, Mughal Empire is in decline, weakened by Hindu and Sikh rebellions; Safavid Empire ends with invasions from bordering states; Ottoman Empire continues, but in weakened state		
	Estimated world population is about 800 million; life remains mostly rural with less than 3% of world living in urban areas		



American Revolution ends with U.S. independence from Britain

1783	1800
	Industrial Revolution has begun in Britain
1750	Europe has experienced a century-long Scientific Revolution , which has sparked a revolution in thought known as the Enlightenment
1756-63	European competition for overseas territory results in Seven Years’ War , a worldwide conflict known as French and Indian War in North America (1754-1763); Britain and allies defeat France and allies; France loses most territory in Americas to Britain
1764-74	To help pay expenses of the Seven Years’ War, Britain begins passing a series of laws that impose new taxes on American colonists, restrict colonial trade, and infringe on colonial rights
1764-75	Colonists protest new British laws with boycotts, in writing (“No taxation without representation!”), by destroying taxed goods (Boston Tea Party), and finally uniting in First Continental Congress
1775	Fighting breaks out between colonists and British soldiers in Massachusetts; marks beginning of American Revolution
1776	American colonial leaders of Second Continental Congress sign Declaration of Independence , declaring freedom from British rule
1783	After eight years of fighting, colonists (Patriots) win the Revolutionary War; United States of America officially becomes a nation
1788	U.S. Constitution is ratified, establishing how the U.S. democratic government works; Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the Constitution guaranteeing many personal freedoms) added in 1791
1789	George Washington is unanimously elected as 1st U.S. president
	In France , crisis is brewing; people resent king’s absolute power and nation’s rigid class system, in which most of the population (Third Estate) lives in poverty with few to no rights
1789-91	Mob in Paris attacks the Bastille, a prison and symbol of many injustices of monarchy; marks beginning of French Revolution ; National Assembly formed by Third Estate leaders takes control of government and establishes constitutional monarchy
1792	Radicals seize control of French government and execute the king
1793	Fearing spread of revolutions, monarchs in Britain, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sardinia join Austria and Prussia in alliance for war against France (War of the First Coalition , 1793–97)
1793-99	France is in turmoil, with arrests and executions of Reign of Terror , and then financial problems and scandals of Directory
1799	French general Napoleon Bonaparte seizes power from the Directory; establishes dictatorship; unifies and simplifies French law with <i>Napoleonic Code</i> ; begins building empire
1800	United States capital moves to Washington, D.C.
	Invention of mechanized looms, spinning machines, and cotton gin have created boom in British textile industry; the Industrial Revolution has begun
	Invention of efficient steam engine frees factories from reliance on waterpower and paves way for revolution in transportation with steam-powered trains and boats
1803	Needing money to finance war against Britain, Napoleon sells French territory between Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains to U.S.; this Louisiana Purchase doubles size of U.S.
1804	Napoleon names himself “Emperor” and continues campaigns to build empire (Napoleonic Wars); eventually controls most of Europe through conquest and alliances; spreads ideas and reforms of French Revolution and <i>Napoleonic Code</i>
	Inspired by American and French revolutions, Haiti has first successful uprising in Latin America ; gains independence from France
1810	Simón Bolívar joins revolt against Spanish rule in Venezuela; helps win independence for nearly all of South America by 1830
1814	Weakened by disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812, Napoleon suffers final defeat by allied European forces
1814-15	Nobility and diplomats from across Europe meet at Congress of Vienna : redraw map of Europe; reestablish royal dynasties in France, Spain, and other former Napoleonic territories; form new alliances to prevent future revolutions or liberal reforms
1820	Concept of interchangeable parts is developed, making mass production of goods possible
	Capitalism (economic system in which individuals and private companies own means of production) is fueling industrial growth in U.S. and Western Europe
1821	Mexico has successful revolution, winning independence from Spain; becomes a republic in 1823; sparks independence movements in Central America ; by 1830, countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua are formed
1822	Brazil officially wins independence from Portugal
1829	Greek nationalists win independence from Ottoman Empire
	Intense sectionalism has developed in U.S.: North is more industrial and has outlawed slavery; South’s economy is mainly agricultural and dependent on slave labor; debate over slavery becomes increasingly violent as U.S. gains new western territory

An Age of Revolutions (1750-1900)

- Era is marked by great movements that lead to **massive changes** in **science, industry, philosophy, religion, culture, and politics**.
- **American and French revolutions** spark nationalist and ideological revolutions around the world.
- **Imperialism** establishes European dominance over much of the world.

Series of nationalist revolutions occur in Europe

1848-52

1885

Africa is partitioned into European colonies

British have created world's largest empire

1900

1837	Queen Victoria begins her 64-year reign in Great Britain; Victorian Era marked by great expansion and prosperity for British Empire
1838	Invention of telegraph allows instantaneous long-distance communication
1845	Failure of potato crops causes major famine in Ireland ; about 2 million die or emigrate (mostly to U.S.); Irish nationalists fight unsuccessfully for home rule, or self-government, in Parliament
1848	Three years after annexing Texas, U.S. wins Mexican-American War , gaining all Mexican lands north of Rio Grande Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , arguing that communism (an economic system without private property or class distinctions) should and will replace capitalism
	Revolutionaries in France overthrow monarchy and proclaim a Second Republic, sparking a series of nationalist revolutions in Europe (Austria, Italy, Prussia); internal fighting causes most to fail and conservatives are soon able to regain power
1850	Bessemer method for producing steel less expensively fills demand for factory machinery and railroads, increasing industrialization Reformers in Britain have pushed through first factory legislation of Industrial era, regulating employment of women and children
1854	Americans force Japan to open trade relations ; shogun signs treaties that favor imperialist powers
1854-56	France and Great Britain fight Russia in Crimean War , mainly over control of territory in decaying Ottoman Empire; Russia loses
1859	British naturalist Charles Darwin publishes his theories of evolution based on natural selection
1860	Abraham Lincoln is elected as U.S. president; fearing he will try to end slavery, 11 Southern states soon secede from Union and form Confederate States of America (Confederacy)
1861-65	Union and Confederacy fight American Civil War , one of the bloodiest conflicts of the 1800s; more than 500,000 die; Union wins; Congress abolishes slavery and gives African Americans rights
	1867 Reform Act extends voting rights in Great Britain to nearly all men Canada becomes a self-governing British territory; begins western expansion; by 1905, all present-day territory has been gained
1868	Anger at trade treaties that favor imperialist nations leads to overthrow of shogun and beginning of Meiji leadership in Japan ; Meiji begin reforms to modernize and industrialize Japan
1869	U.S. completes first transcontinental railroad in North America, connecting east and west coasts of nation
	Suez Canal opens in Egypt, providing vital shortcut between Europe and Asia (Britain takes control in 1882)
1870	Britain, Germany, and United States have become most industrialized countries in world In Russia, Czar Alexander II has issued major reforms including freeing all serfs , but radicals continue to grow in strength
1871	Nationalist revolutions result in unification of Italy as one nation, with capital at Rome Under leadership of Prussian prime minister Otto von Bismarck and supported by German nationalists, German states are unified; king of Prussia becomes kaiser (emperor) of united Germany
1875	After decades of changing regimes, France forms Third Republic ; is politically unstable, but lasts for 70 years
1876	Inventions of telephone and electricity begin to dramatically change daily life and business in industrialized nations
1877	As a result of steady expansion through wars and commercial activity, British control most of India
1880s	Invention of gasoline engine makes age of automobile possible Industrialism has increased growth of middle class and created the new class of factory workers (many are women and children) who work long hours for little pay, often in terrible conditions Workers (mainly in railroads, factories, and mines) form labor unions in Europe and U.S. to fight for better working conditions
1881-94	Russia institutes new policies to crush revolutionaries, restricting rights and encouraging pogroms (massacres) in Jewish communities; results in increased emigration (mostly to U.S.)
1885	European powers meet in Berlin to divide Africa into colonies ; by 1914, European nations control 90% of continent 1898 U.S. and Spain fight Spanish-American War , mainly over control of Cuba; U.S. acquires Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines and becomes recognized as a world power
1900	Britain and France agree to define "spheres of influence" in Southeast Asia , with France controlling most of Indochina (present-day Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) and Britain extending its India Empire into Burma (present-day Myanmar) and Malaya

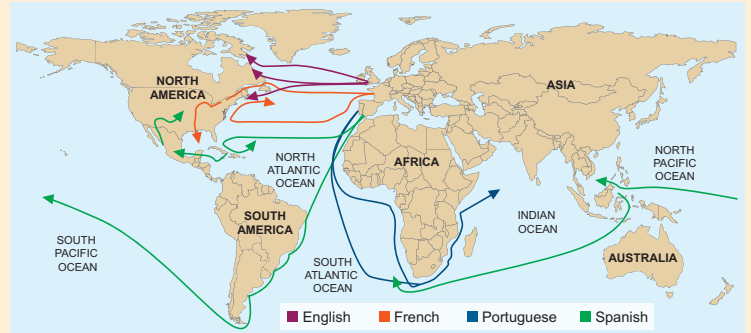


1900 (cont.)	During past 30 years, more than 25 million people have left Europe and immigrated to the U.S.
	Wars and unfair treaties with weak Qing dynasty result in peak of foreign domination in China ; Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan claim "spheres of influence" (areas of exclusive trading rights); foreign powers crush nationalist Boxer Rebellion
	A century of cholera epidemics around the world lead to better sanitation in major industrial cities, with closed sewer lines, treated water, and organized garbage collection
	British Empire is largest ever known, reputed to cover a quarter of the world's land area, and a fifth of its population
	Unstable Balkans have become "powder keg of Europe": Ottoman Empire losing control; Austria-Hungary and Russia want new territory; Nationalist Slavs want independence; France, Britain, and Germany want to preserve balance of power
	Estimated world population is 1.5 billion; urbanization increases with industrialization—about 14% of all people live in urban areas

The Great Age of Exploration (1450-1600)

The years 1450–1600 are often called the **Great Age of Exploration**. European nations used new technology and knowledge to send ships and explorers around the world in search of new lands and riches. The list below describes innovations that made such exploration possible.

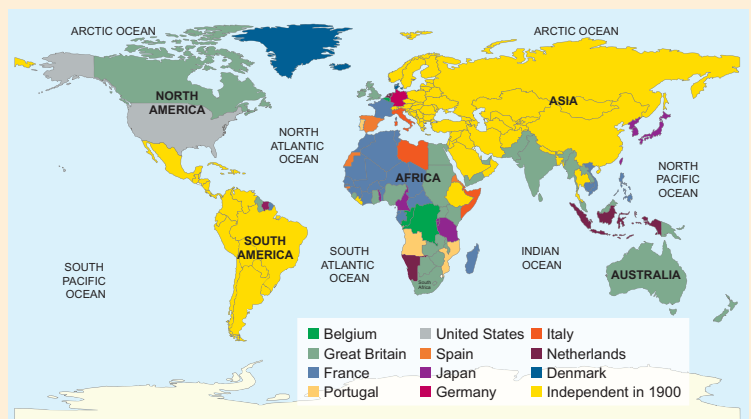
- **New navigation technology** (much from China): compass, astrolabe, hourglass
- **Innovations in shipbuilding**: Europeans develop caravel (fast and strong enough for ocean travel)
- **Improved cartography**: Europeans study mapmaking of Byzantine and Muslim scholars based on work of Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy (127 CE)
- **Better education**: Prince Henry the Navigator starts school of navigation in Portugal and sponsors expeditions



The Age of Imperialism (1870-1914)

Imperialism of 1800s and early 1900s had several causes:

- Nationalism prompted rival European nations to build empires in quest for power.
- Industrialism created huge demand for raw materials and expanded markets.
- Missionary desires and feelings of superiority inspired Europeans to impose their culture on distant lands.



World War I (1914-1918)

This table shows the main countries that fought in **World War I**. Most of the fighting took place in Europe and involved many new terrifying weapons, including machine guns, tanks, battleships, torpedoes, and poison gas. Nearly 10 million soldiers and millions of civilians died during the war.

Allied Powers	Central Powers
Great Britain	Austria-Hungary
France	Germany
Russia (1914-17)	Ottoman Empire
United States (1917-18)	Bulgaria
Japan	
Italy	
Belgium	
Serbia and Montenegro	

Allied Powers	Central Powers
Great Britain	Austria-Hungary
France	Germany
Russia (1914–17)	Ottoman Empire
United States (1917–18)	Bulgaria
Japan	
Italy	
Belgium	
Serbia and Montenegro	

World War II (1939-1945)

This table shows the main countries that fought in **World War II**. Fighting took place in two main theaters: Atlantic-European and Pacific-Asiatic. More than 50 million people died during the war, which ended with the world entering the **nuclear age**.

Allied Powers	Axis Powers
Great Britain	Germany
France	Italy
USSR/Soviet Union	Japan
United States (1941-45)	Hungary
China	Romania
Australia	Bulgaria
Canada	

Allied Powers	Axis Powers
Great Britain	Germany
France	Italy
USSR/Soviet Union	Japan
United States (1941–45)	Hungary
China	Romania
Australia	Bulgaria
Canada	

The Modern World (1900-2001)

- **Wars** and other **conflicts** become more **global**, as do their resolutions.
- Advances in **knowledge** and **technology** bring about the **Information Age**.
- **Trade agreements** and improved **transportation** and **communication** increase **globalization** of economy and society.
- Struggle for **economic** and **social equality** and **political freedom** continues.

World War I is fought		World's first personal computer released		U.S. declares “war on terror”	
1914-18		1981		2001	
1939-45 World War II is fought		1992 Cold War officially ends			
1903	American inventors Orville and Wilbur Wright fly the world’s first powered airplane, beginning new era in transportation				After 20 years of civil war, communist leader Mao Zedong announces formation of People’s Republic of China (PRC)
1911	Nationalist revolutionaries topple Qing dynasty, ending China’s imperial system; Sun Yat-sen becomes first president of democratic Republic of China , but republic soon collapses in civil war	1950-53			Soviet-backed North Korean troops attack South Korea, starting Korean War ; UN force (about 90% U.S.) sent to stop invasion; war ends with cease-fire and pre-war division of Korea
1913	Henry Ford uses assembly-line methods to mass-produce first Model-T, world’s first inexpensive car	1951			African independence movement begins in Libya; by end of century, European colonialism has ended on continent
1914	European rivalries climax with assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austro-Hungarian Empire; World War I (WWI) begins in Europe; U.S. enters in 1917 (<i>See World War I, above, for a table listing the main countries that fought in World War I.</i>)	1955			Warsaw Pact creates military alliance among communist states in Central and Eastern Europe
	Panama Canal opens for shipping under U.S. control, greatly increasing global trade between Atlantic and Pacific oceans	1957			Soviet Union launches <i>Sputnik I</i> , world’s first artificial satellite
1917	Russian Revolution ends 300-year Romanov dynasty; socialist Bolshevik party under Vladimir Lenin takes control				Vietnam War begins between U.S.-backed South Vietnam and communist North Vietnam (U.S. combat troops involved 1965-1973)
1919	<i>Treaty of Versailles</i> officially ends WWI; defeated Germany must pay billions in reparations and accept full blame for starting war	1959			Invention of microchip makes modern computers possible
1920	U.S. joins most western nations by giving women right to vote	1960s			Under leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. , African Americans in U.S. win victories with passage of major civil rights legislation
1922	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Soviet Union) is established under Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin	1961			Construction of Berlin Wall begins, separating communist East Berlin from free West Berlin; becomes symbol of Cold War
1927	First solo airplane flight across Atlantic Ocean is completed				By international treaty, the entire continent of Antarctica is made a natural reserve, devoted to peace and scientific research
1928	Discovery of penicillin , an antibiotic, revolutionizes medicine	1969			U.S. astronauts become first people to walk on the moon
	In China, nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek defeats communists in civil war and essentially forms dictatorship	1973			Arab oil embargo (protesting U.S. support for Israel) causes global economic crisis; reveals extent of global interdependence
1929	U.S. stock market crashes, marking beginning of Great Depression , a time of terrible economic problems around the world; helps strong nationalist leaders gain power in many countries	1975			Vietnam War ends with surrender of South Vietnam (U.S. involvement in war ends with <i>Paris Peace Accords</i> in 1973)
1939	Under Fascist leadership of Adolf Hitler , Germany invades Poland, starting World War II (WWII) (<i>See World War II, above, for a table listing the main countries that fought in World War II.</i>)	1978			<i>Camp David Accords</i> brings peace between Egypt and Israel
1940-41	Germany uses blitzkrieg warfare to conquer most of Western Europe, but then makes disastrous invasion of USSR	1979			Islamic Revolution deposes U.S.-backed government in Iran, symbolizes rise of Islamic fundamentalism around world
1941	Japanese fighter planes launch surprise attack on U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor , causing U.S. to officially enter WWII	1981			IBM releases world’s first personal computer (PC)
1945	Nazi Germany agrees to unconditional surrender; United Nations (UN) formed to prevent future wars	1982			Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is officially named (epidemic kills more than 20 million worldwide by 2001)
	U.S. drops atomic bombs on Japanese cities Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9), resulting in more than 200,000 civilian casualties	1991			U.S. leads UN coalition in Operation Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War) to stop Iraqi invasion of Kuwait
	Japan agrees to unconditional surrender, officially ending WWII				WorldWideWeb (WWW) is launched for Internet
1946	End of Great Depression and world wars begins “ Baby Boom ” era of increased birth rate in Europe, Asia, North America, and Australia				Soviet Union dissolves and becomes newly independent Russian Federation
1948	Israel is officially declared a nation, and Arab nations declare war	1992			U.S. and Russian presidents officially declare end of Cold War
	Conflict between U.S. and USSR over control of Berlin is first major event of Cold War , a period of intense hostility and propaganda	1993			European Union is created from existing alliances to unite Europe economically and politically
1949	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is formed as military alliance among democratic states in Europe and North America	1994			<i>North American Free Trade Agreement</i> (NAFTA) eliminates most tariffs for trade between U.S., Canada, and Mexico
	USSR detonates atomic bomb, starting arms race with U.S.	1995			World Trade Organization (WTO) is established to regulate global commerce
		1998			First two modules of the International Space Station are launched
		2000			Scientists complete working draft of entire human genome , identifying all genes in human DNA
		2001			More than 3,000 Americans are killed when Al-Qaeda terrorists attack U.S. cities; events collectively become known as 9-11
					U.S. declares “ war on terror ” and soon leads invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq
					Estimated world population is 6 billion; urbanization has increased rapidly with nearly 50% of world living in urban areas

Use code **FREEBIE25**
at checkout